

C l a i m s

1. A method for removing an offshore jacket structure (15) standing on the seabed (16) in a body of water, said method comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) providing a ballastable vessel (1) having a generally float-like main buoyancy section (2) being generally horizontal in the normal floating condition of the vessel (1)

and having two auxiliary buoyancy sections (3) located  
10 above and on either side of the main buoyancy section (2) in said normal floating condition,

(b) bringing said vessel (1) into the vicinity of the jacket structure (15),

(c) ballasting the vessel (1) so as to rotate the main  
15 section (2) to an approximately vertical condition and bringing the main section into contact with the jacket structure (15), the auxiliary buoyancy sections (3) now being located on opposite sides of the jacket structure,  
(d) securing the vessel (1) to the jacket structure (15)  
20 and de-ballasting the vessel so as to raise the vessel with the jacket structure to the water surface (17) while rotating the main section back to the generally horizontal position,

c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that in step (c) the main  
25 section is at first rotated less than 90° from the horizontal, next it is lowered so that its lower end (11) rests on the seabed (16) adjacent to the jacket structure (15), and whereupon it is rotated beyond 90° into contact with the jacket structure (15) while its lower end (11) is  
30 in contact, preferably in substantially rolling contact with the seabed (16).

2. A method according to claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that in step (d), before  
raising the vessel with the jacket structure, the auxiliary  
35 sections (3) are de-ballasted in order to rotate the vessel (1) with the jacket structure (15) while the lower end (11)

seabed until the main section (2) of the vessel forms an angle with the sea surface (17) of 30° - 70°, preferably about 60°.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2,  
5 c h a r a c t e r i s e d by using a vessel (1) having in plan view substantially the shape of a delta with an extension (4, 5) at the apex, the extension forming the fore part of the vessel and the base (8, 9) of the delta forming the aft part, the auxiliary buoyancy sections (3)  
10 being located at the ends (8) of the base.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i s e d by providing the vessel (1) with heavy permanent ballast (12) in the aft part, preferably in the lower parts (8) of the auxiliary buoyancy sections (3).

15 5. A seagoing vessel (1) for removing and installing and transporting an offshore jacket structure (15), said vessel comprising a ballastable main buoyancy section (2) and two auxiliary buoyancy sections (3) protruding in the same direction on either side of the main section,  
20 c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the main buoyancy section (2) is generally planar and has in plan view substantially the outline of an isosceles triangle with an extension at the apex, said extension (4, 5) forming the fore part of the vessel (1) and the base (8, 9) of the  
25 triangle forming the aft part, the auxiliary sections (3) being located at the ends (8) of said base.

6. A vessel according to claim 5,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that a transverse buoyancy section (9) is bridging the gap between the auxiliary  
30 buoyancy sections (3), each auxiliary buoyancy section (3) comprising a single column.

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7. A vessel according to claim 5 or 6,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that at least the main  
section (2) of the vessel is made from stiffened flat steel  
plates.
- 5 8. A vessel according to claim 5, 6 or 7,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that it is provided with  
heavy permanent or semi-permanent ballast (12) in the aft  
part, preferably in the lower parts (8) of the auxiliary  
buoyancy sections (3).
- 10 9. A vessel according to any one of claims 6-8,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that it has a pump room  
(10) in the transverse buoyancy section (9) and a control  
room (5) in the fore part.
- 15 10. A vessel according to any one of claims 5-9,  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that it has external  
surfaces, preferably rounded surfaces (11), at the lower  
ends of the auxiliary buoyancy sections (3, 8) configured  
to permit the vessel, when in use, to pivot towards or away  
from said jacket structure (15) while in contact with the  
20 seabed (16).